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Richmond Times-Dispatch

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6th YEAR

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WEATHER—CLOUDY

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

MYERS TO HEAD LOCAL SURVEY ON PREPAREDNESS

State Board Named to Co-operate with Body Headed by Thomas A. Edison.

INDUSTRIAL PREPARATION FOR ANY EMERGENCY

Will Compile Data as to Manufacturing and Their Possibilities.

CONSERVE LABOR RESOURCES

Unskilled Workmen Asked to Enlist in Vast Army of Industrial Reserves.

Industrial preparedness for any possible conflict that may be forced upon the American people to protect their rights and ideals became a real and vital problem to Richmond and Virginia yesterday when a conference was held in this city, where plans were laid for an industrial survey, with a view of determining the country's exact status in manufacturing plant will be asked to supply confidential information of what it can do in time of national emergency; every skilled workman will be asked, not to enlist in the first call for troops, but to enlist now in a vast army of industrial reserves, to report just what he can do, what tools he has at hand and where he can be found on instant call.

LOCAL COMMITTEE MAKES MYERS CHAIRMAN

There has been formed at the request of President Wilson a committee on industrial preparedness of the Naval Consulting Board of the United States. The State Board of Virginia organized yesterday with the following membership:

E. T. D. Myers, Jr., Richmond, civil and consulting engineer.
Frank U. Humbert, Low Moor, Va., mining engineer for the Low Moor Mining Company.
W. D. Mount, Saltville, general manager of the Matheson Alkali Works.
Virginia S. Rodman, University of Virginia, professor of electrical engineering.
Frank B. Carpenter, Richmond, chief chemist, Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company.

UNDER NAVAL BOARD

HEADED BY THOMAS A. EDISON

At the meeting held yesterday for purposes of organization Mr. Myers was elected chairman.

The general chairman in New York has requested the State directors to "urge newspapers and other mediums of publicity to support the work." The State directors are associate members of the Naval Consulting Board of the United States, of which Thomas A. Edison is chairman. The members of the State board were appointed by the Secretary of the Navy upon the recommendation of the presidents of the several technical societies of which they are members, these societies having been requested by the President of the United States to make such nominations.

The five societies represented are: American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining Engineers, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, American Chemical Society.

MYERS OUTLINES SCOPE OF MOVEMENT

Mr. Myers said yesterday: "The general plan and scope of this movement for industrial preparedness is as follows: There are five directors in each State, each director being a member of and representing one of the five great technical societies; these directors select aids throughout the State from the membership of the several societies, and in this way every industry in the State will be approached and reported upon to ascertain its fitness and capacity for production of munitions and supplies in case of war, and whether the proprietors are willing to co-operate and prepare themselves for such productions.

"It is intended that small trial orders be given to each plant for such material as it is best fitted to produce, and where improvements and alterations are needed, the expense of making the same is to be paid by the government. Reasonable profit covering all expense of production will be paid for these small trial orders. In this way the patterns, plans, templates, etc., which require so much time to produce will be made in advance, and in case

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TO INDICT GERMAN U-BOAT METHODS

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing Marshaling Accumulation of Evidence.

SOLEMN PLEDGES VIOLATED

Contemplated Action Expected to Bring Controversy to Clear-Cut Issue.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—While President Wilson and Secretary Lansing to-day were marshaling an accumulation of evidence that Germany in her submarine warfare has violated solemn pledges given to the United States, official word of two more shipping disasters, due apparently to illegal acts by German submarine commanders, was received at the State Department.

Consular dispatches indicated that the steamship Mangan Abbey was attacked without warning on April 8, and that the Aberdeen bark Inverlyon was sunk by shell fire after the crew had been forced to the small boats more than 100 miles from shore. Americans were aboard both ships, and were endangered.

These two cases are being investigated, and may be included in the American indictment of German methods of conducting submarine warfare, which, it was understood to-night, probably would be ready for transmission to Berlin early next week.

The President and Secretary Lansing devoted a large part of the day to consideration of the submarine situation. They had before them a number of affidavits secured from American survivors of the Sussex and other vessels recently attacked, and a number of documents containing information forwarded by Great Britain.

CONSTITUTE VIRTUAL ADMISSION OF GUILT

It was said the actual value of the affidavits had been materially lessened by the contents of the German note replying to American inquiries. The affidavits probably would have played an important part in the indictment if the administration did not regard the German statements about the Sussex as constituting a virtual admission of guilt.

It became known here to-night that the contemplated action of the United States, which is expected to bring the submarine controversy to a clear-cut issue, is being watched closely by the diplomatic representatives of other neutral nations. The United States is taking into consideration the cases of many neutral vessels which, while not carrying American citizens, have been sunk by German submarines. An investigation of these cases has been proceeding on the ground that it was only by chance that American citizens were not aboard the ships.

Furthermore, the interests of the United States and other neutrals are understood to be identical in some of the cases. So far, however, the United States has declined to act jointly with other neutrals, not only in regard to the submarine question, but on other subjects as well. It was said to-night by a high administration official that the American government saw no need for joint action in the present situation.

It was reiterated to-night that before taking the action contemplated the President would consult with congressional leaders. It was indicated that Republicans as well as Democrats would be called into the conference.

CONSIDERABLE PERTURBATION IN BERLIN FOREIGN OFFICE

LONDON, April 15.—The correspondence at the Hague of the Exchange Telegraph Company forwards the following: "Considerable perturbation has been caused at the Berlin Foreign Office by news received by wireless of American dissatisfaction with the recent German note. The Chancellor had several conferences with the American ambassador and also discussed possibilities with Count von Bernstorff, Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, who is now in Berlin. Lengthy instructions were sent to Ambassador von Bernstorff at Washington.

"German officialdom now seems willing to strain every nerve in order to avoid a rupture with the United States, while the press continues in a most flamboyant way to give advice to President Wilson, publishing vicious articles and cartoons of the President."

GREEK NAVAL OFFICER TELLS OF ATTACK

PARIS, April 15.—The Greek naval officer, an alleged account of whose experiences aboard the Sussex when she was damaged was published by a semi-official German news agency, which at

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

SALARY INCREASES ARE ILLEGALLY PAID

Many Public Officials May Be Called On to Make Refund.

DECISION IN HODGES CASE

Alexandria County School Superintendent Ordered to Pay Back \$970.

That many public officials of the State may be compelled to return to the Commonwealth part of their salaries collected many years ago is shown in the light of a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals in the case of Superintendent Hodges, of the Alexandria County public schools, who has been compelled to return to the State \$970 representing his increase in salary for a period of three years.

How far-reaching this decision will be there is no means of knowing at this time, though Attorney-General Pollard says there may be hundreds of public officials now in office, as well as many who held office years ago, affected.

According to the Code of 1887, an executive officer's salary cannot be increased nor decreased during the term of office to which he has been elected or appointed. There are few, if any, decreases in salary, most of them, if not all, having been increases.

ALEXANDRIA CITIZEN FORCED HODGES TO REFUND

It was upon this section of the Code that a citizen of Alexandria County based his suit against Superintendent Hodges for the recovery of three years' increase in salary. Mr. Hodges, who was appointed by the State Board of Education, receives his pay from the Treasurer of Alexandria County. During his term of office his salary was increased from \$1,500 to \$1,800 per annum, or \$300 per year.

The Alexandria County Court awarded the damages, amounting to \$970, and ordered the money to be returned to the county as having been illegally paid and received. Mr. Hodges appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeals, and the higher tribunal affirmed the decision of the lower court and Mr. Hodges returned the money.

According to Superintendent Hodges, there are many superintendents over the State who have received increases in salary during their terms of office. Attorney-General Pollard stated yesterday with regard to all such increases, both as to school superintendents and many other officials, that no increase had been "invariably" made during their terms of office.

MANY OFFICIALS HAVE RECEIVED INCREASES

"There are many State and county officials whose salaries have been increased during their terms of office all over the State, and there seems but little doubt but that those who have received them in a similar manner to that given Superintendent Hodges will, if sued by a taxpayer, be compelled to return the increase in salary.

However, the entire amount is not recoverable in case an official is elected for an ensuing term, for then he is entitled to the increase in salary, for the reason that the salary was raised prior to his entering the following term, and under the terms of the section of the Code he is entitled to it. But on no conditions is he entitled to an increase during the term he is then serving.

Coming under the same section of the Code is the somewhat muddled condition arising from the raise in salaries awarded by the last General Assembly to First Auditor Moore, Commissioner of Labor Doherty, Superintendent Wood, of the State Penitentiary, State Printer Bottom and Clerk Howell, of the Richmond Circuit Court. All of these officials had their salaries raised, and the latter received monthly vouchers for the over-amounts paid to them by the Auditor Moore.

Mr. Pollard instructed Mr. Moore to pay only the salaries received prior to the meeting of the General Assembly. He ruled that "executive officials' salaries could not be raised during the term of office for which they were elected or appointed."

POLLARD ADVISES PAYMENT AT OLD RATE

Recently Mr. Moore asked the Attorney-General if he should pay the salaries of these officials, who received an increase in salary by the recent act, on the basis of what they had received prior to the meeting of the General Assembly or should pay them upon the basis indicated in the Code.

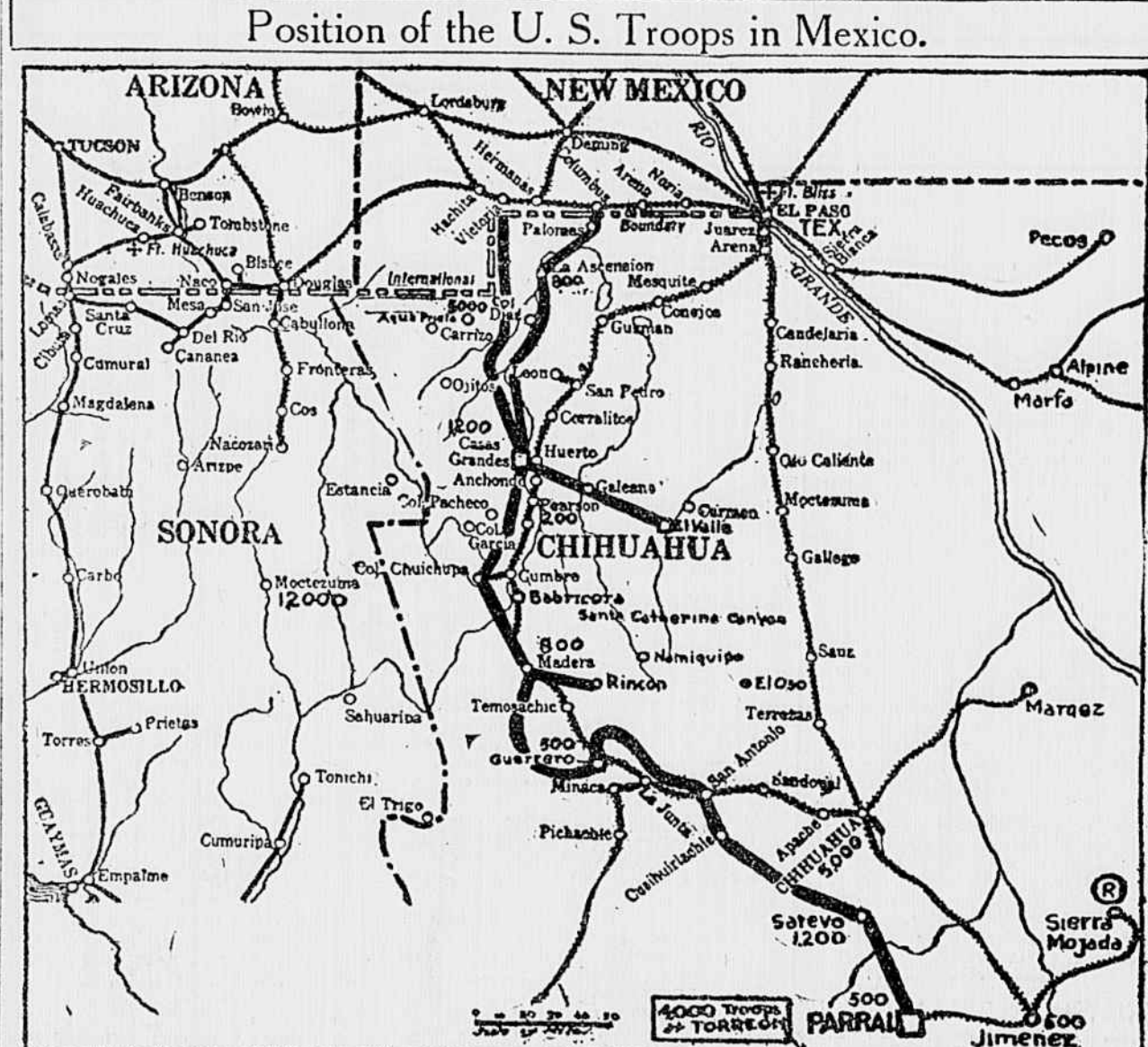
Mr. Pollard's letter follows: "In reply to yours of April 6 will say that I am advised by counsel for the Superintendent of Public Printing, Superintendent of the Penitentiary and Commissioner of Labor that they will proceed to test the validity of the increase in their salaries.

"Pending the proceedings in this behalf I advise you to pay all of the officials mentioned in your letter of April 6 at the rates received by them prior to March 1 of this year."

Increases in the salaries of all the officials indicated by Mr. Moore have been made during the past ten years except in the case of the First Auditor himself. The Code fixes the salary of the Superintendent of Printing at \$1,500; the Superintendent of the Penitentiary at \$1,500, the salaries being now \$2,500 and \$2,750, respectively; the salary of Commissioner of Labor fixed by the Code at \$800 and he now receives \$2,500, and the clerk of this City Circuit Court receives \$600, when the Code fixes it at \$400. It is not known whether any of these salaries were raised during the terms of office or not. Mr. Moore's was not, at least, as he has not received his recent increase. He still receives the salary fixed by the Code.

Senator James E. Cannon is proceeding to test the validity of the increase.

TO DEAL WITH CARRANZA ON WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS



Map showing the location of General Pershing's forces in Mexico and how they are entirely surrounded by Carranza troops and outposts three to one. The American forces number about 12,000 on a 375-mile line at Torreon, where General Trevino has about 4,000 men. The other garrisons situated at various points in Chihuahua and Sonora, extending as far as the international border, are as follows: General Gutierrez, Chihuahua City, 3,500; General Gomez, Northwestern Chihuahua, 5,000; General Calles, Northern Sonora, 12,000; General Herrera, Satevo, 1,200; General Gavira, Juarez, 1,800; General Bartani, Madero, 800; General Cano, Namiquipa, 600; General Cayson, Guerrero, 500; General Davilla, Casas Grandes, 1,200. Besides these the Arrieta brothers are south of the American forces in the State of Durango, with a following estimated at about 3,000.

RESERVE BANK CANNOT BE MOVED FROM RICHMOND

Baltimore's Long Fight Falls Before Opinion of Attorney-General Gregory.

CONTROVERSY IS NOW CLOSED

Rediscounts of Federal Reserve Institution for Week Amount to \$663,695—Enormous Resources Shown in Consolidated Statement.

Richmond's Federal Reserve Bank cannot be removed to Baltimore or any other city by the Federal Reserve Board, according to an opinion yesterday issued by the board on Attorney-General Gregory, who holds that the location of a Federal Reserve bank from one city to another within the same district. The opinion was asked by the board preparatory to final action on the appeal of Baltimore and that of Pittsburgh for the bank now located in Cleveland.

The long-awaited opinion was received by the board yesterday in Washington from Attorney-General Gregory, and will probably be made public to-morrow. The Baltimore-Richmond contest had been pending before the reserve board for more than eighteen months. Local bankers had little concern over the ultimate result of Baltimore's contest, feeling there was no argument strong enough to offset the many claims this city had made for the location of the bank.

SANDS MUCH PLEASED

"It is a piece of extremely gratifying news," said Oliver J. Sands, president of the American National Bank, who was chairman of the executive committee of Richmond business men and bankers that worked to secure the location of the regional bank in this city. When told of the Attorney-General's opinion last night, Mr. Sands said:

"For my part, I was not greatly concerned over Baltimore's protest, for I have never felt that the many superior commercial reasons advanced for Richmond could be offset.

"However, it is gratifying to know that the matter cannot be further agitated, for as long as there is agitation there is always a possibility that unfavorable action to Richmond might be taken. Two-thirds of the banks would strongly oppose any other location of the bank in this district.

"The location of the bank in Richmond means much to the member banks in this section, principally from the time saved in the matter of clearings. The greatest argument advanced in favor of Richmond as the location of the bank was that more than four-fifths of the members in this district would save one day, and this was an important item with them."

Attorney-General Gregory, in his opinion, also held that there is nothing in the law to prevent the reduction

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

Defenders of Verdun Pierce German Lines on Dead Man's Hill

On Gaining Footing in Trenches, However, Berlin Says They Were Slain in Bayonet Fighting.

The French troops defending the fortress of Verdun have launched a vigorous counterattack in the region of Dead Man's Hill, on the west bank of the River Meuse, was disclosed by the official report issued on Saturday afternoon from the German army headquarters.

The attack followed violent artillery preparation and was directed against the German positions south of Corbeaux wood, in the Cumières Wood, and on Dead Man's Hill.

Though line after line of French troops were laid, by the concentrated artillery and machine-gun fire of the Germans, some French battalions succeeded in penetrating the Teton position on Dead Man's Hill. On gaining a footing in the trenches there, however, Berlin declares, they were slain in bayonet fighting.

Paris officially is silent regarding this battle, the afternoon statement announcing great activity of French batteries on the west bank of the Meuse, particularly to the west of Corbeaux wood and along Forges brook, but that no infantry engagements had taken place.

The latest official statement issued at Paris fails to mention any activity by the French infantry. Both east and west of the Meuse there have been artillery bombardments only.

SHARP FIGHTING CONTINUES ON THE EASTERN FRONT

On the eastern front, sharp fighting is going on between Austrian and Russian forces for positions on the lower Stripa and the Dniester River, in Galicia, and for others northeast of Czernowitz, in Bukovina.

In the Italian theater the Italian and Austrian armies have respectively taken the offensive at various points along the front. Austrian troops advanced an Italian position at Marich, and claim to have beaten back several counterattacks, in which the Italians are said to have suffered heavy losses.

The Austrians admit they were forced to evacuate a defensive position south of Sperone, but claim to have repulsed the Italian attacks in other sectors.

In the operations on the water four vessels figure in the news. The British steamship Shenandoah, of 2,336 tons gross, and the German steamship Housha have been sunk by mines. The Danish schooner Proven has been sunk by a German submarine at a point south of Stockholm, and the Danish

steamship Kasan has been captured in the Atlantic by a large German submarine.

FRENCH INFANTRY ATTACKS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSS

BERLIN, April 15.—French infantry attacks against the German lines on Dead Man's Hill, and those running to the west of that position, launched yesterday after violent artillery preparations, were repulsed with heavy losses, says the German official statement issued to-day. The soldiers of a few battalions succeeded in penetrating the German trenches on Dead Man's Hill, but these, the statement asserts, were killed in hand-to-hand fighting.

WESTERN FRONT: A STRONG ENGLISH ADVANCE AGAINST OUR ENEMY POSITIONS SOUTH OF ST. ELOI (Belgium) WAS COMPLETELY REPULSED AFTER A HAND-GRANADE ENGAGEMENT.

"In the Argonne and to the east of that region there were lively local artillery and mine duels.

"On the left bank of the Meuse enemy attacks against our positions on Dead Man's Hill, south of the Bois-des-Corbeaux and in the Bois-des-Cumières, preparations for which were made by a great increase in the violence of the enemy's artillery fire, could only be carried through by a few battalions against Dead Man's Hill, thanks to the destructive concentrated fire of the troops which had been put in readiness on both sides of the Meuse.

"The attacking enemy waves broke down with the heaviest losses before our lines. The few men who penetrated our trenches were killed in the hand-to-hand fight.

"On the right bank of the Meuse and on the Woëvre plain the fight activity chiefly was limited to violent artillery duels. Two weak enemy hand-grenade attacks southwest of Fort Douaumont were without result.

"Eastern theater: Attempts made by the Russians yesterday to deliver local attacks northwest of Drinsk were, like those on the previous days, unsuccessful.

"On the Seretche River, southeast of Goroditche, we easily frustrated an advance by weak enemy forces, which had been prepared by strong artillery fire.

"Balkan theater: There is nothing to report."

FRENCH POSITIONS SUBJECTED TO HEAVY BOMBARDMENT

PARIS, April 15.—There was no infantry fighting in the Verdun region last night. French positions between Malancourt wood and hill 304, west of the Meuse, had been hit by strong artillery fire.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

WILSON DECIDES REQUEST IS CAUSE FOR NEGOTIATION

Willing to Agree to Fix Limit of Time and Distance.

IN MEANTIME, PURSUIT OF VILLA CONTINUES

Reply to De Facto Government Expected to Go Forward in Short Time.

DISCUSSED FULLY BY CABINET

Funston Reports That He Has Heard Nothing From Pershing in Three Days.

Pershing Reports on Clash at Parral

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The first official report in the clash Wednesday at Parral, reaching the War Department late to-night from General Funston, said two American troopers and forty Mexicans were killed.

Secretary Baker made this announcement: "Telegram from General Funston quotes a telegram from General Pershing to the effect that he has just received information of an unprovoked attack upon American soldiers who had entered Parral to buy supplies. His information is that two American soldiers and forty Mexicans were killed, but no further details had been reported at the time.

"General Pershing also reports that he has given full information to General Herrera as to the position, direction and general destination of our troops pursuing Villa. He has sent by aeroplane for full particulars."

WASHINGTON, April 15.—President Wilson has decided to inform General Carranza, in response to his request for withdrawal of American troops from Mexico, that the United States will negotiate for an agreement along these lines.

"This government is willing to agree to fix a limit on the distance American troops now in pursuit of Villa shall proceed into Mexico, and to make that limit not much further south than the troops already have proceeded.

The United States is willing to give assurances that the American troops will be withdrawn within a reasonable time, or as soon as it is definitely established that Villa has reached a point where he can be dealt with better by the Carranza forces.

These points, it became known to-night, were discussed fully at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. The President's advisers are said to have agreed on such a course in the belief that it would make stronger the chances of catching Villa. A reply to General Carranza is said to be virtually completed, and is expected to go forward in a very short time.

NO CHANGE IN ORDERS TO FORCES IN MEXICO

Meantime, the pursuit of Villa by American troops will continue. Secretary Baker sharply outlined this today in a formal statement.

"The status of the expedition into Mexico is as it was at the beginning, in cordial co-operation with the de facto government of Mexico," he said. "That co-operation continues and the expedition continues. There has been no change in the orders, and none is in contemplation."

Secretary Baker and other officials laid stress on the fact that co-operation of Carranza troops was regarded as an important element, and negotiations for an agreement with the de facto government will be conducted with the idea that it would strengthen Carranza at home and make the task of catching Villa easier.

The lines of communication of the American troops already have been lengthened to the point where sending supplies has become difficult. It is realized here that it would be extremely hazardous for them to go much further.

TRYING TO OBTAIN REPORT ON PARRAL INCIDENT

A dispatch from General Funston to-day said he had not heard from General Pershing for three days. General Funston added he was trying to obtain from the front an authentic report of what had occurred at Parral on Wednesday.

Much importance is attached to this report, in view of the negotiations with Carranza. The long delay and an unconfirmed report to-day of a second attack on the Americans near Parral caused uneasiness in some quarters.

"It still holds," Secretary Baker said, however, "that reports of the Parral incident are exaggerated; that it will prove to have been local and accidental, and that there will be no further consequences of any kind."

The only word the State Department had regarding the Parral case came from consuls at Mexico City and El Paso.

HOME ECONOMICS

Buy-Right Hints for the Thrifty Housewife

The question of marketing in Richmond is simplified by reading the GROCER and MARKET advertising in The Times-Dispatch this morning before you market. The representative concerns that cater to the most essential needs of life are regular advertisers in this paper. With the choicest

Authoritative Market News Woman's Page To-Day

things to eat, the largest variety at the lowest prices, these merchants make marketing at once a real joy and a source of genuine ECONOMY. Read the news this morning on the Woman's Page. It is authority for quality, and a guide to expediency in providing for the "hunger wants" of the household.

NOTE—The Times-Dispatch guarantees a marked saving on every purchase made in Richmond stores that advertise their lowest prices in these pages.